

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015:**

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall at 7pm. There was an attendance of 3 Parish Councillors and 3 Parishoners.

Apologies for absence: Mrs L. Gritton, Mrs M. Kitt ( in hospital) Mr R. Ladkin, Mrs G. Rossetti, Mrs J. Stevens.

**Unfortunately the Parish Council were not quorate for this meeting, so any financial, or planning decisions could not be made.**

District Councillors Report: Mr S. Wright reported that a new head of service at SHDC had been appointed. The executive committee decided to freeze council tax for the next year, although this is not the final decision. There is a Super Cluster Meeting next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February at Follaton House and the parish really does need a representative. Owners of empty homes causing embarrassment to parishes or towns could be asked to bring them back to use and do a deal with the council to let them for affordable rents. In Devon there are currently 2232 people looking for homes. The grants for disabled people has already exhausted its £650.000 budget and it is estimated that another £50.000 will be needed before the end of the financial year.

Matters Arising:

a. Playing Field Update: It appears the school fencing around the new proposed play area would require planning permission, they propose not to put any there, but can you have a netball court with no fencing?? We will get the plans and ask the planning officer to come along on a site visit. Mr M. Adams was concerned that we were losing ground to the school and wanted to know if the area would still be open to the children of the parish. The answer to that is yes, it is still the parish playing field, not the school field..

b. Work Party: The date has been set for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am. Mrs A. Smith asked whether we could be given more notice in future so that plans can be made to leave the date free.

c. Village Hall Lease: The Chairman reported that he had met with Mrs C. Horton, Chair of the Village Hall Committee. She wished the liability of the fence be removed from the lease in the future and when the schools lease was up for renewal that this should then be attached to their lease and let them take on the responsibility. This in an ideal world would be perfect, but if the school refuse to accept the responsibility then the Village Hall Committee would be bound to accept the terms of the already existing lease. Mrs Horton felt that she would be unable to sign the lease as it stood. She was grateful to the Parish Council and the District Councillors community fund for meeting all but £500 of the cost of the new fencing, but was still irked by the fact that the Village Hall had not been consulted prior to the work being given the go ahead. Perhaps a way forward would be for a three way split between the Village Hall, Parish Council and the School. This can be further discussed at future Parish Council meetings and the Council may have to take advice from the solicitors.

The caravan at Vicarage Lane, the chairman has asked the planning officer to take a look.

The water running from the Vicarage into Townsend Road has now been fixed.

Representatives Reports: The ladder stile at the lower end of Wallace Lane is to be repaired. There are no signs at the bottom of the lane at Longbrook to the quarry, should we put signs there? It was confirmed by the parishoners present that this is not a footpath or a public right of way, but private land, therefore it would be wrong to sign post it.

There being no further business that was able to be discussed the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed .....Dated.....